

In The Claims:

A complete listing of the pending claims, with amendments, is provided below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing software to a computer, the method comprising:

coupling at least one advertisement to the software;

establishing, by a distributor of the software, a predetermined event prior to providing the software;

providing the software with the coupled advertisement to the computer for installation;

allowing the software to be used on the computer, in conjunction with the advertisement;

recording usage data on the computer;

after the predetermined event, posting said usage data to an external medium;

after said posting, continuing to allow the software to be used.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

after a predetermine the predetermined event but before said posting, preventing at least one aspect of the software from being used, but continuing to allow a second aspect of the software to be used.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the predetermine predetermined event is a predetermined number of times that the software has been used.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the predetermine predetermined event is an attempt to use the at least one aspect of the software.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the predetermine predetermined event is a lapse of a predetermined time period.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the external medium is a server associated with an advertiser of the advertisement.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the external medium is a server affiliated with a financial institution.

8. (Original) A method for distributing computer software to a computer, the software having two aspects, the method comprising:

coupling an advertisement to a first aspect of the software;

providing the software with the coupled advertisement to the computer;

allowing the first aspect of software to be used on the computer, in conjunction with the advertisement;

recording usage data on the computer;

preventing a second aspect of the software from being used;

posting said usage data to an external medium;

after said posting, allowing the second aspect of the software to be used.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the software is a song and the first and second aspects are different portions of the song.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the software is an application program and the first and second aspects are different capabilities of the application program.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the software is a game and the first and second aspects are different portions of the game.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

receiving a payment for the software; and

upon receipt of the payment, uncoupling the advertisement from the software.

13. (Currently Amended) A server program for delivering software over a network, the software including a record for recording usage data and a first advertisement that is being used in conjunction with the software, the program comprising instructions for:

listing the software for access by a computer connected over the network;

linking to the computer;

providing the software to the computer while linked;

after the software has been provided, receiving the usage data from the computer, the usage data indicating that a predetermined event has occurred [and the software has been disabled]; and

automatically updating the software with a second advertisement and re-enabling the software through the network.

14. (Original) The server program of claim 13 further comprising:

receiving a payment for the software; and

upon receipt of the payment, uncoupling the advertisement from the software.

15. (Original) The server program of claim 13 further comprising:

un-linking from the computer after the software is provided; and

re-linking with the computer for receiving the usage data.

16. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

automatically replenishing the at least one advertisement after said posting.